Declassified and Approved For Release 2012/11/21 : CIA-RDP08C01297R000500160017-4

FOREIGN SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

SECURITY : ~~RESTRICTED~~ PRIORITY: AIR POUCH

620630

23 For Dept. use only.

RECD JUNE 4

TO : Department of State

648.613/5-2951

FROM : WARSAW 649, May 29, 1951

REF :

SUBJECT : Agreement between Poland and the Soviet Union Involving Exchange of Territory

ACTION EUR

INFO FR DCR OLI E UNA USUN L OIR/GE COMR ECA IN ljp

An agreement between Poland and the Soviet Union involving the exchange of 480 square kilometers of territory signed in Moscow on February 15, 1951, was first made public on May 22, was presented to the Sejm on May 25, and was ratified on May 26.

The information concerning the agreement available to the Embassy at the present time does not contain enough detail to permit the delineation of the new boundary.1/ However, it is possible to gain a fair idea of the shape of the territory acquired by the Soviet Union from Poland, as this was described at some length during the course of the Sejm discussion of the agreement.

Vice Premier ZAWADZKI, in his speech to the Sejm on May 25, noted that the townships of KRYSTYNOPOL, BEŁZ, CHOROBROW, and UHNOW were transferred to the Soviet Union in their entirety and that parts of WAREŻ, DOŁHOBYCZOW, and TARNOSZYN were also involved in the exchange. All these towns are in Lublin Province. Press accounts stress that the main value of the exchange to the Soviet Union lies in the "appreciable facilities in the way of railway transport" which it acquired with the territory.

An examination of the 1:500,000 map of Poland, published by Wojskowy Instytut Geograficzny Sztabu Generalego W. P. in 1947 (Przemysł sheet) shows a railroad running roughly parallel to the pre-agreement boundary for a distance of perhaps 60-65 kilometers along the Sołokija and Bug Rivers.2/ Uhnów and Bełz

---

1/ A joint Polish-Soviet Demarcation Commission is to delineate the frontier within the next two or three months in accordance with (1) a description contained in two appendices to the agreement and (2) a map attached to it.

2/ The sheet referred to was recently sent to IAD.

RLIowry:vh

~~RESTRICTED~~

THIS IS NOT A PERMANENT RECORD COPY.
Retain in office files or destroy in accordance with security regulations. Reproduction of this message is not authorized.

L00.2A25C

Declassified and Approved For Release 2012/11/21 : CIA-RDP08C01297R000500160017-4

Declassified and Approved For Release 2012/11/21 : CIA-RDP08C01297R000500160017-4

lie on or near the railroad running along the Sołokija River, Tarnoszyn lies about seven kilometers north and east of Uhnów, and Krystynopol is situated near the junction of this line and the north-south line which parallels the Bug River. The other towns mentioned are all located to the west of this north-south line at distances ranging from five (Chorobrów) to seventeen (Dołhobyczów) kilometers from it.

Much less is known about the configuration of the territory acquired by Poland, as both press accounts and speakers in the Sejm were more concerned with describing its natural resources than with giving details of its political geography. The available information merely indicates that the land acquired is adjacent to Lesk county of Rzeszow Province and includes Ustrzyki Dolne.

All accounts attach great importance to the natural gas and oil resources acquired by Poland, and JUSKIEWICZ (PSL) specifically stated that Poland acquired "oil fields with oil and natural gas wells." The map mentioned above indicates the existence of an oil field about twenty kilometers east and south of Ustrzyki Dolne which may be the subject of this comment.

Under the terms of the agreement (1) the populations of the two areas are to be exchanged, (2) all movable property is to be removed by both sides, and (3) all immovable property and equipment is to be left in place by both sides.

The Polish press and speakers in the Sejm hail the agreement as evidence of the Soviet Union's "friendship and brotherly help to Poland" by which Poland has acquired vital resources in exchange for "fertile agricultural areas and in particular a sector of railway especially convenient for communications in the Soviet Union." According to the published accounts, the negotiations were initiated by Poland with the object of acquiring additional oil and gas resources, and the achievement of this goal by an even exchange of territory (480 square kilometers for 480 square kilometers) is represented as "an example of the new type of international relations based on unconditional respect for the equality of rights....between two States regardless of the fact that one of them is much bigger and more powerful than the other one."

Declassified and Approved For Release 2012/11/21 : CIA-RDP08C01297R000500160017-4

SECURITY : RESTRICTED
Declassified and Approved For Release 2012/11/21 : CIA-RDP08C01297R000500160017-4

COMMENT: The railroad line acquired by the Soviet Union is part of the most direct communications link between Brześć and Lwów and would appear to have strategic value to the Soviet Union for this reason.

The Embassy is not in a position to assess with any accuracy the value of the territory acquired by Poland. Whether Poland has acquired valuable new sources of gas and oil can be ascertained only by authorities in the United States having access to detailed information about the production capabilities and the potentialities of the area in question.

Further details regarding this exchange of territory will be transmitted to the Department as they become known.

Garret G. Ackerson, Jr.
Chargé d'Affaires a. i.

RESTRICTED

Declassified and Approved For Release 2012/11/21 : CIA-RDP08C01297R000500160017-4